REGISTERED No. T. 10 REGISTERED No. M. 4581

THE TRAVANCORE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

TRIVANDRUM, WEDNESDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER 1945. 27TH CHINGAM 1121.

Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore

Read—.

1. The recommendations of the Travancore Education Re-organisation Committee with regard to the payment of grants to private managements of primary schools.

2. The relevant portions of the proceedings of both the Houses of Legislature at their meetings held in August 1945.

3. The Travancore Government appointed a Committee charged with the duty of enquiring into the existing educational system in the State and formulating proposals for its re-organisation with due regard to postwar developments. The Committee submitted its report in March 1945, and thereafter the Government, in pursuance of their undertaking to this effect and for the purpose of eliciting responsible public opinion, placed the Report before both the Houses of the Legislature.

4. Dealing with the topic of primary education the Committee had made a recommendation that Government should pay to private managements of primary schools a grant equal to 75 per cent. of the teachers' salaries and they further proceeded to state that although the managements are expected to pay the remaining 25 per cent, this payment need not be made a condition of recognition for schools already in existence. It has been recognised on all hands that one of the fundamental problems relating to primary education in the State is that connected with the status and remuneration of the teachers, without an improvement of which no progress can be achieved in this field.

5. The two Houses of the Legislature, after an exhaustive discussion, resolved that Government should make themselves responsible for primary education throughout the State and should for this purpose take up the control and management of primary schools. This resolution was carried in the Sri Mulam Assembly by 52 votes to 8 and in the Sri Chitra State Council by 30 votes to 4. In support of this position Government have also received deputations and representations from several public organisations and from bodies representative of the teachers in primary schools.

ORDER R. DIS. No. 1324/45/EDN. DATED TRIVANDRUM, THE 12TH SEPTEMBER 1945.

Having bestowed their anxious consideration on the subject, Government have come to the conclusion that the responsibility of imparting primary education throughout the State devolves upon and has to be shouldered by them and they have accordingly decided to assume the control and management of primary education with the definite object of making such education both free and compulsory within as short a period as practicable; and they have instructed the Director of Public Instruction to formulate detailed proposals on the basis of a ten-year programme for implementing this decision.

In view of the agitation sponsored by certain organisations and the misconceptions that, notwithstanding what has been stated publicly more than once by and on behalf of the Government, still persist, Government wish to make the following points clear:—

1. Private agencies now conducting primary schools in buildings and premises belonging to them will not be called upon to surrender those buildings and premises to Government; nor will Government take any steps towards the closure of such schools so long as they conform to the general standards of primary education and the general curriculum that will be formulated in the course of implementing the above decision of Government.

2. Government's policy will be to build primary schools on the basis of a type-design to be selected for the purpose.

3. Government will be willing if the managements so desire, and if they are prepared voluntarily to hand over any of their buildings and premises to Government, to acquire them if and only if such properties can be conveniently used in conformity with Government's policy or converted into the type-design already referred to and if they possess such playgrounds and conveniences as will enable these premises adequately to be utilised for the purposes of Government. In general, however, Government will not be anxious to acquire any buildings, even if voluntarily offered, as in their opinion it is much better to design new buildings, lay out playgrounds and put up sheds for the noon-feeding of children where necessary, than to acquire and then probably to demolish existing buildings.

4. Where, as has been represented to Government in several instances, primary schools have come into existence as a result of philanthropic effort on the part of the local public, Government will exercise their powers under the law for the purpose, if need arises, of utilising premises vested in the existing managements who are trustees for the public.

5. It follows from the above decision of Government that they are not anxious to dispossess or to interfere with the management by private agencies of primary schools, whether those agencies are communal, local or religious in character. Government desire to make it absolutely clear that it is quite open to any body or organisation, interested in promoting particular religious, social or educational creeds or in pursuing specific educational programmes, to run their own schools with such objectives.

6. Government also retain the fullest discretion to give such encouragement and support to any pioneering educational enterprise, as may give useful instruction ancillary or supplementary to the Government curriculum.

7. Government, however, in consonance with their declared policy of religious neutrality, do not propose to give any grant to primary schools run specially or primarily for the purpose of imparting specific types of religious education. In this connection Government cannot but bear in mind that in the vast majority of cases, primary schools run by denominational or religious bodies are also attended by students belonging to communities or religions other than those of the managements. In the nature of things Government cannot be expected to subsidise, directly or indirectly, the imparting of religious education to one portion of the pupils in any school. Government have, therefore, decided that while they have no objection to private agencies conducting primary schools for their own religious or sectarian purposes, such schools, not being within the general scheme of primary education, will not be entitled to the benefit of the grants available for the purpose of promoting primary education in the State.

(By order)

B. PARAMU,
Secretary to Government.

To

The Gazette.
The Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Travancore
The Director of Public Instruction.
The Financial Secretary to Government
The Accountant General.
The Press Room.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS, TRIVANDRUM 1946